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TRANSMITTAL
FORM

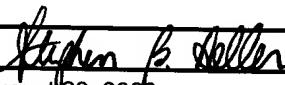
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------|
| | | Application Number | 09/776,472 |
| | | Filing Date | February 2, 2001 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Hiroki et al. |
| | | Art Unit | 1762 |
| | | Examiner Name | M. Cleveland |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | | Attorney Docket Number | 0553-0238 |

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

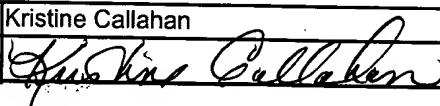
| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer | <input type="checkbox"/> - Request for Continued Examination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund | <input type="checkbox"/> - Return Postcard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | | |
| Remarks | | |

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Firm or Individual | Stephen B. Heller |
| Signature |  |
| Date | August 26, 2003 |

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: August 26, 2003

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Typed or printed | Kristine Callahan |
| Signature |  |
| | Date August 26, 2003 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

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GROUP 1700

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AUG 29 2003
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2003

Effective 01/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

 Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 2,184.00)

Complete if Known

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Application Number | 09/776,472 |
| Filing Date | February 2, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | Hiroki et al. |
| Examiner Name | M. Cleveland |
| Art Unit | 1762 |
| Attorney Docket No. | 0553-0238 |

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SEP 04 2003

GROUP 1700

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

 Check Credit card Money Order Other None
 Deposit Account:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Deposit Account Number | 50/1039 |
| Deposit Account Name | Cook, Alex, McMarron, Manzo, Cummings & Mehler, Ltd. |

The Commissioner is authorized to: (check all that apply)

Charge fee(s) indicated below Credit any overpayments

Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application

Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

| Large Entity | Small Entity | Fee Code (\$) | Fee Code (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|----------|
| 1001 750 | 2001 375 | | | Utility filing fee | |
| 1002 330 | 2002 165 | | | Design filing fee | |
| 1003 520 | 2003 260 | | | Plant filing fee | |
| 1004 750 | 2004 375 | | | Reissue filing fee | |
| 1005 160 | 2005 80 | | | Provisional filing fee | |
| SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) | | | | | |

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

| Total Claims | 34 | -20** = | 14 | X | 18 | = | 252.00 | Extra Claims Fee from below | Fee Paid |
|--------------------|----|---------|----|---|----|---|--------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Independent Claims | 6 | - 3** = | 3 | X | 84 | = | 252.00 | | |
| Multiple Dependent | | | | | | | | | |

| Large Entity | Small Entity | Fee Description |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1202 18 | 2202 9 | Claims in excess of 20 |
| 1201 84 | 2201 42 | Independent claims in excess of 3 |
| 1203 280 | 2203 140 | Multiple dependent claim, if not paid |
| 1204 84 | 2204 42 | ** Reissue independent claims over original patent |
| 1205 18 | 2205 9 | ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent |
| SUBTOTAL (2) (\$ 504.00) | | |

**or number previously paid, if greater. For Reissues, see above

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Small Entity

| Fee Code (\$) | Fee Code (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1051 130 | 2051 65 | Surcharge - late filing fee or oath | |
| 1052 50 | 2052 25 | Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet | |
| 1053 130 | 1053 130 | Non-English specification | |
| 1812 2,520 | 1812 2,520 | For filing a request for ex parte reexamination | |
| 1804 920* | 1804 920* | Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action | |
| 1805 1,840* | 1805 1,840* | Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action | |
| 1251 110 | 2251 55 | Extension for reply within first month | |
| 1252 410 | 2252 205 | Extension for reply within second month | |
| 1253 930 | 2253 465 | Extension for reply within third month | |
| 1254 1,450 | 2254 725 | Extension for reply within fourth month | |
| 1255 1,970 | 2255 985 | Extension for reply within fifth month | |
| 1401 320 | 2401 160 | Notice of Appeal | |
| 1402 320 | 2402 160 | Filing a brief in support of an appeal | |
| 1403 280 | 2403 140 | Request for oral hearing | |
| 1451 1,510 | 1451 1,510 | Petition to institute a public use proceeding | |
| 1452 110 | 2452 55 | Petition to revive - unavoidable | |
| 1453 1,300 | 2453 650 | Petition to revive - unintentional | |
| 1501 1,300 | 2501 650 | Utility issue fee (or reissue) | |
| 1502 470 | 2502 235 | Design issue fee | |
| 1503 630 | 2503 315 | Plant issue fee | |
| 1460 130 | 1460 130 | Petitions to the Commissioner | |
| 1807 50 | 1807 50 | Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q) | |
| 1806 180 | 1806 180 | Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt | |
| 8021 40 | 8021 40 | Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties) | |
| 1809 750 | 2809 375 | Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a)) | |
| 1810 750 | 2810 375 | For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b)) | |
| 1801 750 | 2801 375 | Request for Continued Examination (RCE) | |
| 1802 900 | 1802 900 | Request for expedited examination of a design application | 750.00 |

Other fee (specify) _____

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 1,680.00)

SUBMITTED BY

(Complete if applicable)

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Stephen B. Heller | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 30,181 | Telephone | 312-236-8500 |
| Signature | <i>Stephen B. Heller</i> | | | Date | August 26, 2003 |

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.27. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Address to:
Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, DC 20231

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Application Number | 09/776,472 |
| Filing Date | February 2, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | Hiroki et al. |
| Art Unit | 1762 |
| Examiner Name | M. Cleveland |
| Attorney Docket Number | 0553-0238 |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114

a. Previously submitted

- Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- Other _____

b. Enclosed

- Amendment/Reply
- Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1039

- RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
- Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
- Other _____

b. Check in the amount of \$ 750.00 enclosed

c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

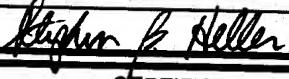
WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

GROUP 1700

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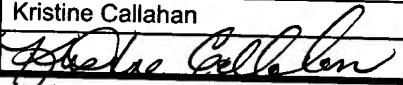
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Stephen B. Heller | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 30,181 |
| Signature |  | Date | August 26, 2003 |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Kristine Callahan |
| Signature |  |
| Date | August 26, 2003 |

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND FEES AND COMPLETED FORMS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

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Instruction Sheet for RCEs

(not to be submitted to the USPTO)

NOTES:

An RCE is not a new application, and filing an RCE will not result in an application being accorded a new filing date.

Filing Qualifications:

The application must be a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. The application cannot be a provisional application, a utility or plant application filed before June 8, 1995, a design application, or a patent under reexamination. See 37 CFR 1.114(e).

Filing Requirements:

Prosecution in the application must be closed. Prosecution is closed if the application is under appeal, or the last Office action is a final action, a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (e.g., an Office action under *Ex parte Quayle*). See 37 CFR 1.114(b).

A submission and a fee are required at the time the RCE is filed. If reply to an Office action under 35 U.S.C. 132 is outstanding (e.g., the application is under final rejection), the submission must meet the reply requirements of 37 CFR 1.111. If there is no outstanding Office action, the submission can be an information disclosure statement, an amendment, new arguments, or new evidence. See 37 CFR 1.114(c). The submission may be a previously filed amendment (e.g., an amendment after final rejection).

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WARNINGS:

Request for Suspension of Action:

All RCE filing requirements must be met before suspension of action is granted. A request for a suspension of action under 37 CFR 1.103(c) does not satisfy the submission requirement and does not permit the filing of the required submission to be suspended.

Improper RCE will NOT toll Any Time Period:

Before Appeal - If the RCE is improper (e.g., prosecution in the application is not closed or the submission or fee has not been filed) and the application is not under appeal, the time period set forth in the last Office action will continue to run and the application will be abandoned after the statutory time period has expired if a reply to the Office action is not timely filed. No additional time will be given to correct the improper RCE.

Under Appeal - If the RCE is improper (e.g., the submission or the fee has not been filed) and the application is under appeal, the improper RCE is effective to withdraw the appeal. Withdrawal of the appeal results in the allowance or abandonment of the application depending on the status of the claims. If there are no allowed claims, the application is abandoned. If there is at least one allowed claim, the application will be passed to issue on the allowed claim(s). See MPEP 1215.01.

See MPEP 706.07(h) for further information on the RCE practice.